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SUBJECTS:

HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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Director, FBI

259416

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(JFK)

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN, ET AL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 14, 1943, in the above-captioned matter, which requests that any documentary evidence showing definitely that HERBERT BIBERMAN is presently a branch organizer of the Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party, be transmitted to the Bureau for inclusion in instant file. There are transmitted as enclosures herewith photographic copies of eight pertinent records which were made available by a highly confidential source to Special Agents DAVID A. MacCULLOCH and JOHN R. VICARS on July 22, 1943. This highly confidential source advised that the originals were the records of ELIZABETH LEACH, Organizer of the Northwest Los Angeles County Communist Party.

The following is a summary and interpretation of the enclosed photographic records on the people hereinafter named. All information refers to the Northwest Section:

HERBERT BIBERMAN. Chairman of Branch A until the reorganization of the Northwest Section from Industrial to Neighborhood Branches (partially) when he became a member of the Hollywood Branch, exact function unknown. (See Pages 1, 2, 3, 4 of enclosure.)

GALE SONDERGAARD BIBERMAN. People's World Drive Director of Branch E until the reorganization about June 1, 1943, then transferred to Branch F. Branch F appears to be an industrial branch composed of actors and actresses chiefly. (See Pages 1 and 2)

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. Member of Branch K until the reorganization about June 1, 1943, then transferred to the Writers Branch, Hollywood-Valley group. He is also listed as one of the twelve "leading people" in the Writers Branch. (See Pages 5, 6, 7 and 8 of enclosure.)

EDWARD BIBERMAN. Brother of HERBERT BIBERMAN was prior to the reorganization, the organizer of Branch E. He is now a member of the Hollywood Branch, exact function unknown.

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Letter to Director

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September 24, 1943

Re: HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN, ET AL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SUE LAWSON. Wife of JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was a member of Branch K prior to the reorganization and is now a member of the Valley Branch. (Records of SUE LAWSON are not included in the enclosure but they are available in the Los Angeles Office)

It will be noted from a perusal of the enclosed photographic copies that the last names of the people herein before named were not shown on the records. However the descriptive data and other records and past activities of these persons leave no doubt that they are the persons referred to; for example, on Page 2 HERBERT is described as being from Hollywoodland, which is a neighborhood district where BIBERMAN lives and where no other Communists known to this office by the name of HERBERT resides. The same is true of "ED B" described as being from Hollywoodland. EDWARD BIBERMAN resides in Hollywoodland adjacent to HERBERT BIBERMAN. It is further noted on Page Eight that "JHL" is a writer who resides in the "Valley". JOHN HOWARD LAWSON does reside in North Hollywood which is considered part of San Fernando Valley and is commonly known as the "Valley".

An entire set of the photographic copies of the records of ELIZABETH LEACH obtained were transmitted to the Bureau by cover letter dated August 9, 1943, in the case entitled COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A., DISTRICT NO. 13, LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION, together with a memorandum identifying most of the members therein named. An interpretation of the records, together with a pertinent memorandum explaining the reorganization of the Northwest Section was also part of this memorandum.

Concerning JOHN HOWARD LAWSON's connection with the Party, the following confidential information was also obtained: On September 22, 1943 Confidential National Defense Informant Los Angeles 1357 held a conference with MARJORIE J. POTTS, also known as MARJORIE FISKE, who is on the Key Figure List of the Los Angeles Field Division. During this conference FISKE admitted to the informant that she is presently the Membership Director and Organizational Secretary of the Northwest Section; that she works full time for the Communist Party and is on salary; however, for income tax purposes and to cover up her real employment she receives her salary through JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

In this connection the bank account of JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was examined by Special Agent ERWIN P. HAIR on August 30, 1943 at the Bank of America, Hollywood Main Office, and reflected checks payable to MARJORIE FISKE in the amount of \$30.43 on July 29, August 6, August 13 and August 21,

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